

REMARKS

The change to the title is made so as to better reflect the subject matter of the pending claims.

Claims 27-30, entered by preliminary amendment on 10 December 2001, have been canceled and claims 31-46 have been newly added. Claims 31-46 are currently pending in the application.

The new claims describe aspects of the present invention described generally on page 3, line 31 to page 4, line 5, and in more detail on page 7, line 19, to page 8, line 2, in which the advantage of applying small electric fields over a series of discrete segments along a path in order to achieve large electric fields is disclosed. The thrust of the claims is to introduce a limitation on the minimum electric field strengths that may be applied across the various segments.

More specifically, bases for terms in the new claims are as follows:

New Claim(s)	Term/Phrase	Basis
31, 39	"substrate having an upper surface"	Claim 12.
31, 39	"main trench in the ... substrate extending downward from said upper surface"	Claim 12.
31, 39	"plurality of electrodes"	Page 7, lines 7-8. Page 14, lines 9-10. Figs. 1 & 2.
31, 39	"positioned at intervals, including at each terminus"	Figs. 1 & 2. Claim 8.
31, 39	"plurality of electrodes being connected to an electronic computer"	Page 11, line 31. Claim 18.
31, 39	"programmed to activate electrodes to provide an electrical field profile"	Page 10, lines 14-16. Page 11, lines 15-16, together with page 11, lines 30-33. Claim 18.
31, 39	"placing a sample of the charged particles into the medium"	Page 10, lines 12-13.
31, 39	"applying a voltage from a voltage source across each adjacent pair of electrodes..."	Page 7, lines 19-20: "...biased by the application of different voltages to each of the electrodes" Page 7, lines 29-32. Page 14, line 31 – Page 15, line 2.
31, 39	"the electrical field generated across the plurality of electrodes is larger than..."	Page 7, lines 21-26. Page 10, lines 1-3.
32, 40	"substrate is an organic polymer solid substrate"	Claim 12.
33, 41	"organic polymer solid substrate is polymethylmethacrylate, polycarbonate, ..."	Claim 2.
34, 42	"substantially uncharged surface"	Claim 1.
35, 43	"capillary dimensions"	Claim 6.
36, 44	"intervals are between 1 and 100 microns"	Page 7, lines 13-14 and lines 17-18.
37, 45	"regular intervals"	Page 7, lines 13-14.
38, 46	"activated sequentially"	Page 10, lines 14-18.

ACLARA ref. 009.09

- 6 -

USSN 10/016,483

39	"plurality of branched trenches connected to said main trench"	Page 12, lines 12-16. Fig. 2
39	"plurality of electrodes positioned at the termini of each branch trench..."	Fig. 2

No new matter has been added by the amendments.

We request that the patentability of the claims as herein amended now be considered.

If any additional time extensions are required, such time extensions are hereby requested.

If any additional fees not submitted with this response are required, please take such fees from deposit account 50-2266.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen C. Macevicz
Reg. No. 30,285
Attorney for Applicants

Telephone: (650) 210-1223